

In the Claims

Please consider Claims 1-19 as presented below:

1. (Currently amended) A brazing process to join two metal parts, said metal parts including (i) a tube (1) having an end (4), and (ii) a tubular metal part (3) having a lateral wall (2) with an inner wall surface, wherein the end (4) of said tube (3) is brazed into a hole provided in the lateral wall (2) of said tubular metal part (3), the process comprising the steps of:

positioning a brazing filler metal (5, 6) on the end (4) of said tube (3) ;
fixedly aligning the metal parts to be joined, wherein said filler metal is positioned inside said tubular metal part proximate the inner wall surface prior to melting;
heating said metal parts to a temperature at which the filler metal melts,
whereby a brazed joint is formed between the two metal parts.

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said heating step is carried out in a furnace.

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said filler metal is in the form of a preformed metal object.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 3, wherein said preformed object is a folded metal wire.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein a coating (5) of filler metal is applied or deposited around the end of said tube and the end of the tube is then inserted into said hole.

7. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein a preformed metal object is positioned around the end of said tube and the end of the tube is then inserted into said hole.

8. (Original) The process according to claim 7, wherein said preformed metal object is a ring (6) of metal wire.

9. (Original) The process according to claim 8 wherein said ring is positioned in a receiving groove (7) provided around the end of said tube.

10. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the end of said tube is tapered.

11. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the end of the tube is refashioned after it has been inserted into said hole.

12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the end of said tube is inserted into said hole so as to protrude into the inside of said tubular part a distance of from 1 to 3 mm.

13. (Previously presented) A brazing process to join two metal parts (1, 11), said metal parts including a stopper (11) and a tubular manifold (1) having an end with an opening, wherein said stopper is brazed to close the open end (12) of said tubular manifold (1), said stopper having

an internal face (15) provided with a housing (19) formed along the external edge (13) of the stopper, said process comprising:

positioning of a filler metal (18) on the stopper;

fixedly aligning the metal parts to be joined, wherein said filler metal (18) is positioned inside said tubular manifold (1) prior to melting; and

heating said metal parts (1, 11) to a temperature at which the filler metal (18) melts.

14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein said positioning of a filler metal (18) includes holding the filler metal (18) in proximity to the junction to be brazed by a plurality of projections (20) formed on the internal face (15) proximate the edge (13) of the housing (19) of the stopper.

15. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein a portion of the housing (19) includes a step (14) that is inserted in said tubular manifold, wherein said step (14) forms a junction with an internal surface (17) of the manifold to be brazed.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein, the metal parts to be joined are parts of a towel-rack radiator.

19. (Previously presented) A stopper (11) for closing an opening formed at an end (12) of a tubular manifold (1), said stopper having an internal face (15) provided with a housing (19)